

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
ACDA-12 IO-13 AID-05 TRSE-00 OMB-01 HA-05 SMS-02
/104 W

-----067031 030500Z /11

R 022020Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0814
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USBERLIN
USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 14120

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, UK, GW
SUBJECT: UK-FRG POLITICAL DIRECTOR CONSULTATIONS

REFS: A) BONN 13725; B) BONN 13631

1. FOREIGN OFFICE POLITICAL DIRECTOR BLECH MET WITH HIS
UK COUNTERPART HIBBERT DURING THE MORNING OF JULY 29
FOR WHAT WERE DESCRIBED AS BRIEF BUT INTENSIVE
CONSULTATIONS. DISCUSSION COVERED FOUR PRINCIPAL AREAS.

-- EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN. CYPRUS WAS THE FOCUS OF
ATTENTION WITH HIBBERT BRIEFING BLECH ON HIS RECENT
LETTER TO ASSISTANT SECRETARY VEST (SEPTTEL). BOTH
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AGREED THAT NEXT STEPS IN CYPRUS WOULD HAVE TO AWAIT
THE HOUSE VOTE ON THE TURKISH EMBARGO.

-- NORTHERN EUROPE. HIBBERT AND BLECH SWAPPED
ASSESSMENTS OF THE SITUATION IN NORWAY, DEALING
PRINCIPALLY WITH SOVIET INCURSIONS INTO NORWEGIAN
TERRITORIAL WATERS AND SPITZBERGEN. THE UK ASSESSMENT

WAS DESCRIBED TO US AS SIMILAR TO THE FRG VIEW
CONTAINED REF A. THE TWO POLITICAL DIRECTORS AGREED
THAT SOVIET POLICY IN NORWAY WOULD BEAR CLOSE SCRUTINY
IN THE FUTURE. REGARDING FINLAND, THE KEKKONEN PLAN
FOR A NORDIC NUCLEAR WEAPON FREE ZONE WAS DISCUSSED
WITH BOTH SIDES AGREEING ON THE ANALYSIS RECENTLY
PRESENTED HER COLLEAGUES BY US AMBASSADOR RIDGWAY.

-- EAST/WEST ISSUES. DISCUSSION CENTERED ON CSCE AND
HOW TO IMPROVE COORDINATION BETWEEN LONDON AND BONN.
BLECH EXPRESSED GERMAN UNHAPPINESS WITH OWEN'S "SUDDEN
SHIFT" (LATER REVERSED) AGAINST SETTING A DATE FOR A
CSCE SCIENCE CONFERENCE. BLECH SAID THE GERMANS ARE
ANXIOUS TO AVOID SUCH SURPRISES DURING THE VALLETTA
CONFERENCE AND HE EMPHASIZED THE NEED FOR CLOSER
CONSULTATIONS.

-- BERLIN. DISCUSSION CONSISTED OF A FOLLOW-UP TO THE
BONN MEETING OF THE FOUR. ONE OF THE MAIN TOPICS WAS
WHAT HAD MOTIVATED ABRASIMOV TO UNDERTAKE THE HARRASSMENT
ON THE TRANSIT ROUTES.

2. COMMENT. WHILE OUR RATHER BRIEF READOUT DOES NOT
INDICATE THAT IT WAS MANIFESTED AT THIS MEETING, WE
HAVE IN RECENT WEEKS PICKED UP CONSIDERABLE WORKING
LEVEL GRUMBLING ABOUT BRITISH POLICY. IN GENERAL, OUR
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INTERLOCUTORS ASSERT THAT LONDON IS NOT PURSUING A
CLEARLY DISCERNIBLE LINE (E.G. ON CYPRUS) AND IS
MAKING ILL-CONSIDERED MOVES TO ENHANCE LABOR'S CHANCES
AT THE POLLS. RE THE LATTER POINT, OWEN'S SHIFT TO A
HARD LINE STANCE ON A CSCE SCIENCE CONFERENCE AND THE

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 14120

ABSENCE OF CONSULTATION ON LONDON'S DECISION TO PROHIBIT
MILITARY CREWS FROM TAKING PART IN THE SOVIET HELICOPTER
DEMONSTRATION (REF B) ARE CITED AS PRIMARY EXAMPLES. S
THESE MOVES ARE SEEN BY SOME AS AN EFFORT TO DEFEND THE
RIGHT FLANK AGAINST MRS. THACHTER. IN ADDITION, THERE
IS WIDESPREAD CRITICISM OF WHAT IS SEEN AS THE UK'S
"NATIONAL INTEREST" POSITION ON EC ISSUES, PARTICULARLY
FISHERIES AND THE EUROPEAN MONETARY UNION.

3. SOME GERMAN OFFICIALS BELIEVE BRITAIN'S POLICIES,
RATHER THAN BEING ELECTION CAMPAIGN ORIENTED, ARE
ATTRIBUTABLE TO LONDON'S NOT YET HAVING FOUND ITS ROLE
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AS A MEDIUM EUROPEAN POWER. THESE OFFICIALS NOTE THAT
BRITAIN AS A FORMER WORLD POWER WHICH MAINTAINS
SUBSTANTIAL GLOBAL INFLUENCE, IMPORTANT POST-COLONIAL
RELATIONS WITH THE THIRD WORLD, AND A NUCLEAR CAPABILITY,
HAS NOT YET CONDITIONED ITSELF TO WORKING WITH AND
THROUGH EUROPE. RATHER THE BRITISH CONTINUE TO LOOK
TOWARD OTHER CHANNELS (RE AD THE US) FOR OPERATIVE ASPECTS
OF THEIR FOREIGN POLICY.

4. WE DO NOT ASSERT THAT THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN BONN
AND LONDON IS NOT A GOOD ONE; IT IS, AND IN NO SMALL
MEASURE BECAUSE OF THE CLOSE AND EVIDENTLY WARM
RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CALLAGHAN AND SCHMIDT. MOREOVER,
THE EASE AND INFORMALITY AT THE TOP CAN BE FOUND AT

VIRTUALLY ALL LEVELS OF GERMAN-BRITISH INTERACTION.
MORE IMPORTANT, THERE IS A WIDE POLICY CONVERGENCE
BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. HOWEVER, THIS NOTWITHSTAND-
ING, THERE IS PERIODIC DISSATISFACTION HERE WITH THE
ALLIES ACROSS THE CHANNEL, AND RIGHT NOW WE ARE HEARING
MORE OF IT THAN USUAL.
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